Portland Streetcar Citizen Advisory Committee
May 8, 2002, Portland Streetcar Office, 115 NW First Avenue
Members in attendance: Bob Amundsen; Steve Fosler; Stan Lewis; Ken McFarling; Vern Rifer; Chris Smith; Ingrid Stevens
Staff attendance: Kay Dannen; Carter MacNichol
Others: Art Lewellan

The meeting was called to order.

1. RiverPlace Extension.
Carter reported that the Portland Development Commission has approved funding for preliminary engineering and work has restarted. The project is still not completely financed and different avenues of financing are aggressively being followed. The alignment is the original route chosen except for the possibility of adding an additional stop on the Harrison connector to service potential development in that area. Carter is expecting a cost estimate for the alignment to River Parkway in mid-July.

Current terminus at 4th/Montogomery will be discontinued and the alignment will circle the block with a turn back at Montgomery and 4th for the Vintage Trolley or a turn back of Streetcar service if needed. Different designs are being done to circle this block. The goal is to stay out of the Urban Plaza so we minimize the number of bricks to be removed, be able to turn back the Vintage Trolley, minimize the removal of parking and stay out of the sidewalks.

Ingrid asked how far the streetcar could go in N. Macadam. Carter stated that it could be constructed as far as Gibbs staying on Moody to Gibbs and eventually connect to the proposed OHSU tramway. There has been a movement to construct the tracks as far west as possible to assist with the development of office buildings.

Bob is concerned about the congestion on the new Harrison connector and suggested that the southbound lane be Streetcar only. Carter indicated that a solution needs to be worked out with the Park Bureau, who owns the parking lot off Naito Parkway, as the alignment will close the entrance. This lot belongs to PDC under the management of the Park Bureau. Discussion will be held with the Park Bureau.

As few trees as possible are to taken down on Harrison. Currently, some of the trees are unhealthy. The Harrison connector will be challenging to build, with the possibility of the need to construct up to 20' retaining walls. Also under the roadway is a tunnel which needs to be located and more than likely be removed. We will also have to backfill between 2nd and Naito. Carter has estimated 12 months for total construction, with the earliest opening of Streetcar operation in the first quarter of 2004. Ordering track is a long lead item and will need to be done this summer.

2. Marshall Street Opening.
Kay reported that Marshall Street has been reopened and a 3 way stop has been installed at this intersection. PDOT is also looking at increasing the lighting at this intersection. ODOT is requiring a permit to cross at this section and paperwork is being completed to accommodate them.

ODOT is not happy with this crossing. The retailers in the area are very happy to again have the street open.

3. Sponsorship Update.
Kay is in the process of redoing the restaurant guide which will be printed in late May. Also all current car and stop sponsors have been invoiced for the upcoming fiscal year. Total estimated revenue is $158,000. We still have 7 remaining stops not sponsored and 3 cars not sponsored.

4. Other business.
Stan made the motion that Vern Rifer be appointed the second chair of the Streetcar Citizen Advisory Committee and, in the absence of John Carroll, chair the meeting. Ken seconded the motion and it was passed unanimously. It was suggested that we update the wire racks in the cars more frequently with possible articles featuring local retail merchants. It was also suggested that some effort be made to include some artwork or tasteful ads on the plastic panels to add revenue as well as make the cars more interesting to ride. It was suggested we could highlight local artists.

Vern suggested that we host a party for Commissioner Hales' retirement which would include members of the PSI board, CAC, contractors, consultants, other pertinent parties. Kay will work with Vern to arrange.

The next CAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 12, 3:00PM at the offices of Shiels Obletz Johnsen, 115 NW 1st Avenue, Suite #200.